

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for liquid preparation of one or more photographic reagent comprising at least a process of measuring the photographic reagent and a ~~process of heat melting the photographic reagent~~ reagents that require heat-melting prior to use, the method of comprising the steps of:

(i) transferring, with a pump, ~~the~~ a photographic reagent ~~to be measured~~ to a measuring tank via piping without being heated;

~~heating the photographic reagent to be melted after measuring; and~~ (ii) measuring the amount of photographic reagent transferred to the measuring tank;

(iii) after measuring, heat-melting the photographic reagent; and

(iv) when preparing two or more photographic reagents, repeating the steps for every liquid preparation (i) to (iii) for each additional photographic reagent.

2. (canceled).

3. (original): The method according to claim 1, wherein the photographic reagent is a prepared liquid of silver halide emulsion for use in a heat-developable photosensitive material.

4-17 (canceled).

18. (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein said one or more photographic reagents comprise a silver halide emulsion.

19. (new): The method according to claim 1, which comprises measuring, in said measuring tank, the amount of photographic reagent transferred to the measuring tank.

20. (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein each of said one or more photographic reagents contains a different additive.

21. (new): The method according to claim 20, wherein said additive is a sensitizing dye.

22. (new): A method for preparation of one or more photographic reagents that require heat-melting prior to use, the method comprising the steps of:

(i) transferring, with a pump, a photographic reagent to a measuring tank via piping without being heated;

(ii) measuring the amount of photographic reagent transferred to the measuring tank;

(iii) after measuring, heat-melting the photographic reagent; and

(iv) when preparing two or more photographic reagents, repeating steps (i) to (iii) for each additional photographic reagent,

said method further comprising the step of driving the pump to rotate backward so that air is blown into the piping from a transfer-directional end of the piping for backward washing of an interior of the piping.